PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS BROWSER CLIENT FOR REMOTE USE IN ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATIONS

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional application Ser. No. _____, entitled "Personal Communications Browser Client For Remote Use In Enterprise Communications" and filed Dec. 31, 2005, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Communications methods through computer and communications networks have evolved from basic methods of the past to a variety of types of communications today. Past communications concerned letter, then telegraph, facsimile and ultimately telephone conversations. Communications since then have evolved to include email, instant messaging, two-way paging, cellular telephones and cellular text messaging. Each of these newer modes of communication involve use of newer technologies. They also rely on networks which may overlap the telephone networks, but also use other network resources. As network resources can be relatively scarce, allowing for efficient use of those resources can be useful.

[0003] Managing communications opportunities for a user can also be a useful but daunting task. For example, keeping tabs on when a communication should occur, how it should occur, and where other participants are can be extremely useful, and extremely difficult. Often, a person may have a schedule of communications and meetings in a scheduling program, along with access to contact information which is barely integrated together. Thus, a schedule notice of a meeting (whether in-person or over the phone) and a contact phone number for that person may not be linked. Thus, it would be potentially useful to provide linkage between timing of meetings and information about attendees of meetings.

[0004] Additionally, providing an interface for different modes of communications on a computer or machine may be useful. Whether communication is to occur by phone, videoconference, instant messaging or some other mode, this may be transmitted through a computer or may occur in consultation with a computer. Thus, an integrated interface for communications may allow for more efficient use of multiple modes of communication.

SUMMARY

[0005] In various embodiments, a personal communications browser client is provided. In an embodiment, a communications client operable on a remote computer is provided. The client includes a media player and a content file accessible by the media player. The media player operates responsive to the content file. The media player implements the communications client. The media player implements a user interface and a server interface. The media player receives schedule data related to upcoming communications sessions. The media player predicts upcoming communications sessions. The media player modifies the user interface in conjunction with predicted upcoming communications sessions.

[0006] In another embodiment, a method is provided. The method includes downloading a communications client operable on a remote computer from a server. The communications client includes a content file which causes a media player to implement the communications client. The client assesses capabilities of the remote computer. The client operates a user interface providing communications capabilities and a communications connection. The client accesses information from a server database. The client receives schedule information related to upcoming communications sessions. The client predicts upcoming communications sessions responsive to the schedule information. The client modifies the user interface responsive to the predicting.

[0007] In yet another embodiment, a method is provided. The method includes sending a communications client operable on a remote computer to the remote computer. The communications client includes a content file which causes a media player to implement the communications client. The method further includes routing communications to the communications client on the remote computer. The method also includes sending server data to the communications client on the remote computer. The server data includes schedule data for upcoming communications sessions. The server data enables the communications client to predict upcoming communications sessions and to modify a user interface responsive to the predicted upcoming communications sessions.

[0008] In still another embodiment, an apparatus is provided. The apparatus includes a user interface. The apparatus also includes a server interface. The apparatus further includes a content file including instructions for a media player to execute. The apparatus also includes a media player to access the content file on a remote device. The media player implements the user interface and the server interface responsive to the instructions of the content file. The media player receives schedule data related to upcoming communications sessions. The media player predicts upcoming communications sessions responsive to the instructions of the content file. The media player modifies the user interface in conjunction with predicted upcoming communications sessions responsive to the instructions of the content file.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] The present invention is illustrated in an exemplary manner by the accompanying drawings. The drawings should be understood as exemplary rather than limiting.

[0010] FIG. **1** illustrates an embodiment of a communications interface.

[0011] FIG. **2** illustrates an embodiment of a communications user interface.

[0012] FIG. **3** illustrates an embodiment of a network of machines used in communications.

[0013] FIG. **4** illustrates an alternate view of the embodiment of FIG. **3**.

[0014] FIG. **5** illustrates an embodiment of a process of operating a communications user interface.

[0015] FIG. **6** illustrates an embodiment of a process of storing communications information.